



Waterbeach Parish Council meeting 14 May 2018

I write with reference to your request for a written report on WAY's activities over the past year. Since we do not share the same year end, this report covers the period from September 2017 – April 2018. Our annual report of 2016-17 covers the period from July – September 2017.

Our finances

Our Project Administrator and Youth Worker Caroline Ward continues her success in fundraising. Since September we have been successful in acquiring the following:

- Awards 4 All: £1,604 towards cooking equipment and ingredient for creative cookery sessions, including a WAY Cook Book
- High Sheriff's Award: £4,750 for a community art project
- Causes for Carriers: £1,000 also for art project
- Community Chest: £1,000 for equipment for the music room and gaming

However, despite our ability to acquire funding, we were disappointed that Waterbeach United Charities was unable to fund us this year. This means that our accounts show a short-fall of £4,000 in our current financial year. This is unfortunate, but we will be able to recover it from our reserves. As a matter of course, we aim to hold at least 75% of our annual running costs.

Staffing

This year, our staffing levels have steadied and we have a great team of youth workers. We have also achieved some diversity in the group – we now employ a delightful young Zimbabwean woman who is currently studying in Cambridge, and an equally delightful mature Californian who keeps our young men up to scratch on the football field. Many of you will know Jacques Goorahoo who has been a member of our team since he turned 18 and long before then as a young member. He is by far our longest club fan. Megan Clowes also enjoyed her time as a member so much that she too is now on our payroll. Caroline Ward has also stepped into the role of Youth Worker over and above her position as Project Administrator.

Finding volunteers to help out either regularly or for specific activities remains difficult. We can always use an extra hand as cooking activities and the tuck shop take up a lot of staff time. We welcome volunteers, so please don't hesitate to contact me for a chat if you or anyone you know might be interested in joining us either on a regular or occasional basis. Our terms are very flexible!

Membership

Attendance is at that time of year when numbers are quixotic as the older members get their heads down as the exam period arrives and/or there are other activities at school. Attendance over the year averages around 15. We have now opened membership up to those young people who are still at primary school and are 11 years old. Alongside our normal activities, we have taken two groups of our members - separated into younger and older attendees - for trips to Xtreme 360. Thirty-one members in all took the opportunity and had thoroughly successful and enjoyable evenings.

Trustees

Our small but perfectly formed Trustee group could use a few more people as several of us having been giving our time for around 7 years. We now meet bi-monthly, meetings are in the evening and rarely last longer than two hours. Again, please get in touch if you would like a discussion about our role and responsibilities.

For contact details, see telephone number and e-mail address above.

Shelagh Robertson
Chair of Trustees